

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VITAL STATISTICS, 1956 (PRELIMINARY)

The following preliminary particulars for 1956 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1955 in parentheses.

Births Registered. The number of births registered was 18,964 (18,494). The last 7 years have been successive records in numbers, increasing from 16,042 in 1949. The highest birth rate per 1,000 of population in recent years was 25.23 in 1947, and has now fallen to 22.34 (22.55).

Actual Births. A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The numbers of registered and actual births during recent years have been:- 1951 - 17,463 and 17,319, 1952 - 17,884 and 17,904, 1953 - 18,156 and 18,184, 1954 - 18,227 and 18,359, 1955 - 18,494 and 18,371. The number of actual births for 1956 is not yet available.

Sexes of Births. The number of boys compared with 100 girls born does not vary greatly and in recent years has been:- 1952 - 104.55, 1953 - 106.11, 1954 - 105.19, 1955 - 106.18 and 1956 - 104.88.

Adoptions. 449 (403) children were legally adopted during the year.

Legitimations numbered 35 (28).

Deaths Registered. 7,593 (7,536) an increase of 57 on the record number of the previous year, the rate being 8.94 (9.19). The numbers dying from the various causes are not yet available for 1956 and hence comparisons cannot be made.

Infantile Mortality. Deaths of children under 1 year were 377 (431). The infantile death rate, or the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births during the year of calculation was 19.88 (23.30). The 1956 rate is the lowest recorded for this State, the previous lowest being 20.65 in 1953, and is one of the lowest in the world. The rate has shown a remarkable decrease. Eighty years ago it was 150, sixty years ago it was 110, thirty-five years ago it was 60 and twenty-five years ago it was more than double the present rate.

There were 114 (108) deaths of children under 1 day, 144 (153) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 119 (170) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Compared with earlier years there has been a distinct decrease in the death rate of children under 1 month but a far greater decrease in respect to children from 1 month and under 1 year, although there was a large increase in the latter group for 1955.

Deaths of infants from certain causes for 1956 (1955) have been:- Diarrhoea 5 (24), Congenital Malformations 71 (81), Prematurity 99 (90), Injury at birth 32 (38), Other diseases peculiar to early infancy 77 (82), Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 0 (1), Meningitis 5 (4), Whooping Cough 2 (2), Pneumonia 35 (54), Hernia and Intestinal obstruction 2 (5), External causes 7 (18) and all other causes 42 (32).

Still Births. These are not included in either births or deaths and they number 274 (271).

Marriages. The number of marriages celebrated was 6,277 (6,226) and the rate per 1,000 of population was 7.39 (7.59). The record number of marriages was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 710 (719).

SUMMARY RETURN. The following return shows the number of births deaths and marriages, the rate per 1,000 of mean population, the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

PERIOD	BIRTHS REGISTERED		MARRIAGES		DEATHS REGISTERED			
	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	Total		Infants	
					No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,615	24.02	6,328	9.73	6,369	9.80	427	27.35
1950-54	17,807	23.62	6,362	8.44	7,023	9.31	404	22.69
Year								
1952	17,884	23.69	6,241	8.27	7,050	9.34	413	23.09
1953	18,156	23.39	6,149	7.92	6,962	8.97	375	20.65
1954	18,227	22.89	6,190	7.77	7,179	9.01	388	21.29
1955	18,494	22.55	6,226	7.59	7,536	9.19	431	23.30
1956	18,964	22.34	6,277	7.39	7,593	8.94	377	19.88

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population

(b) Per 1,000 Births.

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